

Appl. No. 09/997,652
Amdt. Dated April 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 19, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A disposable diaper comprising:

a cover member having front and rear waist regions and a crotch region; and

a body fluid absorbent member attached to an inner surface of said cover member;

said body fluid absorbent member extending in a longitudinal direction across said crotch region into said front and rear waist regions, said body fluid absorbent member having front and rear end portions that are fixed to the inner surface of said cover member at said front and rear end portions thereof,

said body fluid absorbent member including a liquid-pervious topsheet to be placed against a wearer's body, a backsheet to be placed against said inner surface of said cover member, and a body fluid absorbent core disposed between the liquid-pervious topsheet and said backsheet, said body fluid absorbent core being formed on a side facing said backsheet with at least one groove that is concave in a direction from said backsheet toward said topsheet, each of said at least one groove consists of a first segment that extends into the crotch region and the front ~~end portion~~ waist region and a second segment that extends into the crotch region and the rear ~~end portion~~ waist region, said

Appl. No. 09/997,652
Amdt. Dated April 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 19, 2005

first and second segments of each individual ones of said at least one groove being aligned with one another longitudinally and being excluded from extending across a longitudinal center of the crotch region portion of the diaper and being excluded from extending into the front and rear end portions of the diaper, said body fluid absorbent member having a longitudinal length that extends between and to the front and rear end portions ~~and said at least one groove having a length that extends short of each of the front and rear end portions.~~

Claim 2 (Previously presented): The disposable diaper according to claim 1, further comprising at least one groove that extends in a direction orthogonal to said longitudinal direction.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one groove comprises at least one first groove extending in said longitudinal direction and at least one second groove extending in a direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction so that said at least one first groove and said at least one second groove intersect one another and said at least one second groove extends to transversely opposite side edges of said body fluid absorbent member.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said body fluid absorbent core is formed on a side facing said topsheet with at least one further groove that is concave in a direction from said topsheet toward said backsheet and extends in said longitudinal direction across said crotch region into said front and rear regions.

Appl. No. 09/997,652
Amdt. Dated April 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 19, 2005

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The disposable diaper according to Claim 4, wherein said at least one further groove is positioned to be substantially aligned with said at least one groove.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): The disposable diaper according to Claim 3, wherein said body fluid absorbent core is disposed between said backsheet formed with said at least one first groove and said at least one second groove and the topsheet opposed to said backsheet.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The disposable diaper according to Claim 4, wherein said body fluid absorbent core is disposed between said topsheet which is also formed with said at least one further groove and the backsheet opposed to said topsheet.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): The disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said body fluid absorbent member is detachably fixed to said cover member.